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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 2 (cancelled)

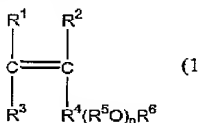
Claim 3 (currently amended)

3. A cement additive comprising:

- (a) a polycarboxylic acid copolymer and/or a salt thereof and a polyalkylene glycol compound, wherein said polycarboxylic acid copolymer contains at least one species of copolymer derived from at least an unsaturated polyalkylene glycol ether monomer (A) and an unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acid monomer (B) as its monomer component; or
- (b) a polycarboxylic acid copolymer and/or a salt thereof and a polyalkylene glycol compound, wherein said polycarboxylic acid copolymer contains at least one species of copolymer derived from at least an unsaturated polyalkylene glycol ether monomer (A) and an unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acid monomer (B) as its monomer component and said polycarboxylic acid copolymer is additionally derived from an unsaturated polyalkylene glycol ester monomer (C) and/or monomer (D), which is copolymerizable with monomers (A) and (B), or with monomers (A), (B) and (C);

wherein for (a) and (b),

the monomer (A) is a compound according to general formula (1)

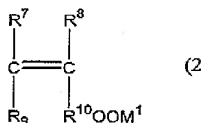


wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are each independently hydrogen or methyl, provided that not all are methyl; R^4 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{O}-$ or $-\text{O}-$; the total carbon number of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is 3; R^5O is one or more species of C_2 - C_4 oxyalkylene groups, and, in the case of two or more species, is optionally block or random; R^6 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_{22}

102793-157
MBJ-0361

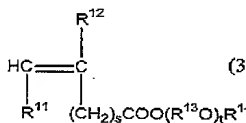
alkyl, phenyl or C₁-C₁₈ alkylphenyl group; p is an integer from on average 1 to 100,

the monomer (B) is a compound according to general formula (2):



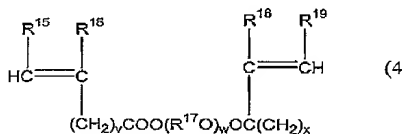
wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently hydrogen or methyl; R⁹ is hydrogen, methyl or -(CH₂)_qCOOM²; R¹⁰ is -(CH₂)_r; q and r are each independently an integer from 0 to 2; M¹ and M² are a monovalent metal, a divalent metal, ammonium or an organic amine;

the monomer (C) is a compound according to general formula (3):



wherein R¹¹ and R¹² are each independently hydrogen, methyl or (CH₂)_uCOOM³, u is an integer from 0 to 2, M³ is a monovalent metal, a divalent metal, ammonium or an organic amine; R¹³O is one or more species of C₂-C₄ oxyalkylene groups, and, in the case of two or more species, is optionally block or random; R¹⁴ is a C₁-C₂₂ hydrogen or an alkyl, phenyl or C₁-C₂₂ alkylphenyl group; s is an integer from 0 to 2; t is an integer an average from 1 to 300; and

the monomer (D) is a compound according to the following general formula (4):

102793-157
MBJ-0361

wherein R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{18} and R^{19} are each independently hydrogen or methyl, provided that not all are methyl; R^{17}O is one or more species of C_2 - C_4 oxyalkylene groups, and in the case of two or more species, is optionally block or random; w is an integer an average from 1 to 300; v and x are each independently an integer from 0 to 2;

which contains 100 weight parts of polycarboxylic acid copolymer and 10-50 weight parts of polyalkylene glycol in mixing proportion.

Claims 4 and 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended)

6. A cement additive according to claim 3, containing 100 weight parts of the polycarboxylic acid copolymer and 10-50 weight parts of the polyalkylene glycol in the mixing proportion. wherein the amount of polycarboxylic acid copolymers added to cement is 0.05-1.0% by weight based on the weight of the cement, and the amount of polyalkylene glycol derivatives added to cement is 0.005-0.5% by weight based on the weight of the cement.

Claim 7 (currently amended)

7. A cement additive according to claim 3, wherein the amount used in a cementitious composition is such that the amount of polycarboxylic acid copolymer cement is 0.05-1.0% by weight based on the weight of cement, and the amount of the polyalkylene glycol to cement is 0.005-0.5% by weight based on the weight of cement. A high strength concrete mix, comprising a cement mix and a cement additive according to claim 3.

102793-157
MBJ-0361

Claim 8 (currently amended)

8. ~~A high strength concrete mix, comprising a cement mix and a cement additive according to claim 3.~~ The high strength concrete mix of claim 7, wherein the amount of cement additive is such that the amount of polycarboxylic acid copolymer to cement is 0.05-1.0% by weight based on the weight of cement, and the amount of the polyalkylene glycol to cement is 0.005-0.5% by weight based on the weight of cement.

Claim 9 (currently amended)

9. A The high strength concrete mix of claim 7, wherein the amount of polycarboxylic acid copolymers added to cement is 0.05-1.0% by weight based on the weight of the cement, and the amount of polyalkylene glycol derivatives added to cement is 0.005-0.5% by weight based on the weight of the cement, for the production of articles by steam-curing, comprising a cement mix and a cement additive according to claim 3.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended)

11. ~~A method of preparation of a high-strength concrete mix, comprising the incorporation into a concrete mix a cement additive according to claim 3.~~ The high strength concrete mix of claim 9, wherein the amount of cement additive is such that the amount of polycarboxylic acid copolymer to cement is 0.05-1.0% by weight based on the weight of cement, and the amount of the polyalkylene glycol to cement is 0.005-0.5% by weight based on the weight of cement.

Claims 12-16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (previously amended)

17. A method of preparation of a high-strength concrete mix, comprising the incorporation into a concrete mix a cement additive according to claim 7 3.

Claim 18 (new)

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the amount of cement additive is such that the amount of polycarboxylic acid copolymer to cement is 0.05-1.0% by weight based on the weight of cement,

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102793-157
MBJ-0361

and the amount of the polyalkylene glycol to cement is 0.005-0.5% by weight based on the weight of cement.